

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A therapeutic apparatus for stimulating healing of a wound in mammals, comprising:

- a porous pad distributing negative pressure to a wound, said porous pad being
which is permeable to fluids and including a porous body having at least a partial outer surface and an inner body, said outer surface being adapted for contact with a surface of said wound and having pores therein of a first average size to enhance biocompatibility, said porous pad to be introduced onto or into [[a]] said wound so as to be in contact with said wound and with said outer surface adjacent said wound and secured in or on said wound by a dressing cover for providing a seal around said wound and said porous pad, said inner body having pores therein of a second average size, wherein said second average size is greater than said first average size;
- a vacuum canister for collecting fluids sucked from said wound by [[a]] the negative pressure connected to said porous pad through a drainage tube;
- and
- a suction pump generating said negative pressure to be applied to the wound.

Claim 2 (original): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said porous pad has an elongated hole to accommodate said drainage tube.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said pores of [[a]] the second average size are vacuum compatible.

Claim 4 (original): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said porous pad is fabricated from a material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane foam and polyether foam.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said pores of [[a]] the first average size are no larger than 100 microns in diameter.

Claim 6 (original): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said dressing cover is made from an elastomeric material.

Claim 7 (original): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising an antimicrobial agent in contact with said porous pad.

Claim 8 (original): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said porous pad is formed by spraying a nontoxic chemical substance into said wound whereby said chemical substance foams up to conform to the dimensions of said wound.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 4 wherein said pores of [[a]] the first average size are formed by placing said porous pad in a liquid coating material.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A porous wound pad for facilitating the healing of a wound in mammals comprising:

a porous body distributing negative pressure to a wound and having at least a partial outer surface and an inner body, said outer surface being adapted for contact of a surface of said wound and having pores therein of a first average size and material modifications to enhance biocompatibility, said porous pad to be introduced into [[a]] said wound with said outer surface adjacent said wound and secured in or on said wound and secured in contact with said wound by a dressing cover for providing a seal around said wound and said porous pad, said inner body having pores of a second average size, wherein said second average size is greater than said first average size, wherein the porous pad is adapted to communicate with a negative pressure source.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The porous wound pad of Claim 10 wherein said porous pad is formed by spraying a nontoxic chemical substance into said wound whereby said chemical substance foams up to conform to the dimensions of said wound.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said outer surface and said inner body are joined together to form a unitary assembly.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The porous wound pad of Claim 10 wherein said outer surface and said inner body are joined together to form a unitary assembly.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said seal is air-tight.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The porous wound pad of Claim 10 wherein said seal is air-tight.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

at least one filter interposed between said canister and said pump.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The therapeutic apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said pump is connected to said canister through a hose.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The therapeutic apparatus of claim 8, wherein the nontoxic chemical substance is at least partially a gas.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The porous wound pad of claim 11, wherein the nontoxic chemical substance is at least partially a gas.

Claim 20 (cancelled).